

Education

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African American Education Resources at the Library of Virginia

Document Bank of Virginia

Document Bank (edu.lva.virginia.gov/dbva) is filled with primary historical sources ready to use in the classroom. These documents can be browsed by a specific historic era, by theme, or using a simple search. This includes an “[African American History](#)” theme, which holds a large range of primary resources that include historical context and suggested questions to inspire students to think further about the significance. DBVa teaches students to be critical thinkers as they analyze original documents and draw their conclusions about Virginia’s past.

Virginia Changemakers

Filled with biographies of men and women who have changed Virginia’s history, this section of the Education website is searchable by specific era, themes such as Education and Civil Rights and Reform, or a simple search and alphabetical order. Virginia Changemakers (edu.lva.virginia.gov/changemakers/) brings together the remarkable lives of Virginians who have made a difference in their community, state, and nation and include those who have been honored through the Library of Virginia’s program celebrating Black History Month, [Strong Men and Women in Virginia History](#).

Shaping the Constitution

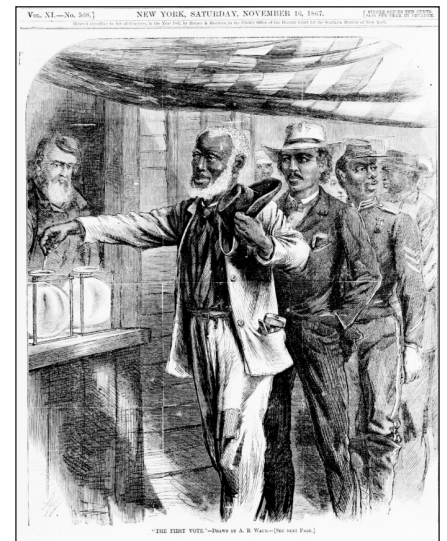
Found in the online classroom (edu.lva.virginia.gov/online_classroom) area of the Education website, “[Shaping the Constitution](#)” features important primary source documents from the Library of Virginia and the Library of Congress related to America’s Founding Era and the U.S. Constitution, with particular attention to the Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth Amendments. Historical text, narratives, images, links, and even a few videos come together in these sections to bring history to life for your students.

Lesson Plans

Also found in the online classroom, “[Lesson Plans](#)” has images, context, SOL correlations, handouts, and suggested materials, all brought together to give educators a head start on certain topics, such as the [19th-Century Interstate Slave Trade](#).

Exhibitions

Found at www.virginiamemory.com, our online gateway to the Library’s digital collections offers wonderful classroom tools. Our list of exhibitions is a great place to see not only what is currently available in the gallery space located on the Library’s first floor, but also an overview of some of our past exhibitions on African American history, like [Remaking Virginia](#), [Brown v. Board of Education: Virginia Responds](#), and [True Sons of Freedom](#).



Virginia Untold

Virginia Untold (virginiamemory.com/collections/aan/) is a collaborative project between the Library of Virginia and the Virginia Museum of History and Culture whose purpose is to document the African American experience in Virginia found in records stored in the two leading archival institutions in the commonwealth. Dating back to the 1600s, these records contain the stories of both free and enslaved African Americans, and, when taken together, provide a detailed account of the challenges they faced. Four of the most insightful record types found in Virginia Untold are freedom suits, petitions to remain in the commonwealth, public claims, and coroner's inquisitions. The blog "[Out of the Box: Notes from the Archives at the Library of Virginia](#)" includes several of these stories, which can easily be plugged in for use in the classroom. Examples include the experiences of the [Cullins Family](#), [Betty Chapman](#), [Peter Spain](#), and [Martha Ann Hobson](#).

Virginia Chronicle

Virginia Chronicle (viriniachronicle.com) is a historical archive of Virginia newspapers, providing free access to full-text searching and digitized images of over a million newspaper pages dating back to the early 1800s. The site includes a search feature to find "[African American Newspapers](#)" by going to the "Titles" tab under the "Category" drop down. Additionally, the pre-1866 newspapers include thousands of runaway slave advertisements. Along with archival records housed at the Library of Virginia, these open up a new avenue for research and can easily be incorporated into a classroom activity; by delving into the combined resources of newspapers and archival records, a more complete story begins to unfold. Examples of these are available on our "[Fit to Print](#)" newspaper blog. As an example, here is a [link](#) to a post about how an enslaved man named Humphrey freed himself and his son.

Transcribe

Transcribe (virginiamemory.com/transcribe/) is a collaborative online workspace where the public can participate in enhancing access to many of our amazing collections documenting over 400 years of Virginia history, people, and culture. Students can dig deep into our collections and transcribe difficult-to-read materials—from peace to wartime, court records to letters home, and conspiracies to political statements, there will be something for everyone.

These are just some of the tools that the Library of Virginia offers educators and students! For a comprehensive list of education resources, visit our Education page at edu.lva.virginia.gov. Engage with Virginia's rich history to empower its future!

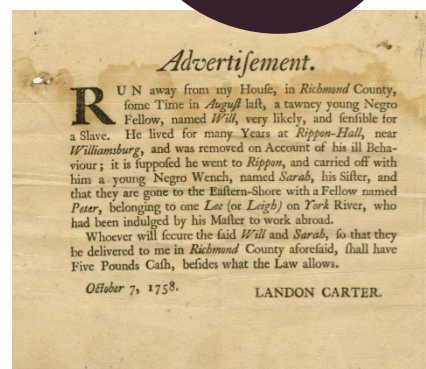


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